
Changing Landscapes 2: Anticipating the Effects of Local Land Use Decisions

Exhibitor Information

Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association (WAPA)

Gary Peterson, AICP, President

<http://gis.sarup.uwm.edu/wapa/default.htm>

WAPA, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association, was created to facilitate the participation of members of the National American Planning Association ("APA") within Wisconsin.

WAPA has three primary goals:

- to advance the art and science of planning in Wisconsin,
- to encourage the exchange of information and planning experiences, and
- to advance the interests and welfare of the planning profession.

Gathering Waters Conservancy

Pam Felt, Program Coordinator

(608) 251-9131

www.gatheringwaters.org

Gathering Waters Conservancy was founded in 1994 by a small group of land trust leaders to serve as a statewide service center for Wisconsin's land trust community. Gathering Waters Conservancy's initial goals were to help organize new land trusts, strengthen existing organizations and generally promote the land trust movement in the state. Since 1994, the land trust community has grown from 12 groups to over 50 organizations who have collectively protected over 125,000 acres of prairies & forests, river & lake shoreline, open spaces and working agricultural lands.

Gathering Waters Conservancy has four main program areas:

- ✓ Training, technical assistance, professional consultation and one-on-one mentoring to

build the capacity and increase the professionalism of Wisconsin's land trusts.

- ✓ Advocacy at the state level to encourage public policies and programs that support land conservation and the work of land trusts.
- ✓ Education and outreach to raise public awareness of private land conservation efforts and the work of land trusts.
- ✓ Direct assistance (training, information, tailored advice, etc.) to landowners and their advisors regarding options for preserving family lands.

Our objective is to increase the amount of land that is privately conserved, protecting Wisconsin's special places and our quality of life.

Midwest Spatial Decision Support System Partnership

Chris Urban, Environmental Engineer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5

(312) 886-3493

www.epa.gov/waterspace

The goal of the Midwest Partnership for Watershed Management Decision Support Systems is to develop, promote, and disseminate web-based spatial decision support systems to help manage watersheds in the Midwest. In particular, our aim is to make these systems freely available via the Internet to local officials, natural resource managers, and the general public.

Local watershed management forms the basis for continued economic development and environmental improvement in the United States. Success depends on an integrated approach that brings together scientific, education and training advances made across

many individual disciplines and modified to fit the needs of the individuals and groups who must write, implement, evaluate and adjust their watershed management projects.

Many communities cannot afford even the most basic approach to, or initial screening of, their environmental problem and need cost effective, user friendly tools to assist them. Existing information and analytic tools, properly presented and freely accessible, can help meet this challenge. Watershed management data and decision support tools can allow informed screening and preliminary selection of alternatives, eliminating large amounts of preliminary "leg work".

In a time of limited local resources, a cost effective approach to watershed management planning that provides access to free, coherently organized, scientifically based information is sorely needed. The partnership aims to provide the maximum information and analytic tools to those levels of government closest to the actual problems. It offers both direct access to its own free web-based decision support tools and road maps to other sites where additional tools can be found.

Rock River Coalition

Suzanne Wade, UW-EX Rock River Basin Educator, (920) 674-8972
<http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/index.asp>

The Rock River Coalition (RRC), is a basin-wide 501(3)(c) not-for-profit volunteer organization established in 1994. Its mission is to educate and bring together people of diverse interest to promote and improve the environmental, economic, recreational, cultural and historical resources in the Rock River Basin.

The Coalition does much of its works through six issue teams: Water Quality; Wetland/Shoreland Protection; Stormwater; Groundwater; Recreation; and Rural Development Concerns. They meet regularly looking at needs and developing actions on specific river basin concerns.

RRC hosts such diverse activities as citizen monitoring, shoreline restorations, conservation subdivision workshops, rural development policy manual development, rain garden workshops and events such as the Send Your Legislator Down the River Educational Event and Basin Forums.

The Coalition's 240 members and volunteers are private citizens, conservation and historic organizations, businesses, private industries, Chambers of Commerce, municipalities and local, regional and state agency staff.

Aquatic & Terrestrial Resources Inventory (ATRI)

Jill Rosenberg, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, (608) 266-2499
<http://maps.botany.wisc.edu/atri/indexIE.htm>

The Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Inventory (ATRI) is a program within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Its purpose is to help people find ecological data and make it more accessible for anyone who needs it for ecological decision-making or planning. More background information about the program can be obtained through the "About ATRI" link.

ATRI Metadata Explorer

The two primary tools discussed at the conference were the ATRI Metadata Explorer and the ATRI Interactive Maps, specifically a map created for Comprehensive Planning. The ATRI Metadata Explorer is available through the "Metadata" link on the home page and is a computerized "card catalog" designed to help located data. It primarily catalogs data collected by the WDNR, but also contains pertinent data from other sources. Using several different search options, users can quickly find out about datasets relating to their area of interest. Additional information is available about each dataset such as a brief description, access and use constraints, time period, geographic extent, etc. A contact person who is knowledgeable

about the dataset and who can assist with data access is also provided.

ATRI Interactive Maps

The ATRI Interactive Maps are available through the "Interactive Maps" link on the home page. A brief demonstration of the functionality of these interactive maps was shown using the Comprehensive Planning application. The interactive maps enable spatial data (GIS layers) to be viewed along with their associated attributes. The user does not need any special software to view them other than their web browser and an internet connection. Users can zoom in and out, identify features, and perform simple queries on a set of map layers. Additional functionality includes a direct link to metadata for all the layers in the application, as well as links to guidance documents for layers pertinent to comprehensive planning.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin

Kevin Pomeroy, Planning Director
(608) 663-9050
<http://www.1kfriends.org/>

1000 Friends of Wisconsin was formed in the summer of 1996 by a coalition of conservationists, farmers, local officials, planners, scholars, sportsmen, business leaders and progressive developers.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin was created to protect and enhance Wisconsin's urban and rural landscapes by providing citizens with the inspiration, information and tools they need to effectively participate in the decisions that have the greatest impact on community health: where we live, work, learn, play and how we get from one place to another. They accomplish their work through three major efforts:

- (1) Promoting Implementation of Smart Growth
- (2) Policy Development and Advocacy
- (3) Research and Information Sharing

Their work focuses on helping communities make the connection between our everyday land use and transportation decisions and our state's economic, environmental and cultural health.

Wellhead Protection Program

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/Wellhead.htm>

An ounce of prevention...

Clear, clean drinking water. It's what we expect when we turn on the tap. The groundwater that supplies your community's wells comes from rain and snow that generally falls within a short distance of the wells. This water seeps into the ground and moves toward your community's wells. Sometimes, pollutants can also seep into the ground and threaten your community's wells.

Wellhead protection is a preventive program designed to protect public water supply wells. The goal of wellhead protection is to prevent contaminants from entering public water supply wells by managing the land that contributes water to the wells.

Wellhead protection planning is one way to ensure your community has a long-term source of clean water.

Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey

Bruce A. Brown, P.G. Senior Geologist, and
Michael L. Czechanski, Senior Cartographer
<http://www.uwex.edu/wgnhs/>

The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) was created by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1897. It is the descendant of earlier state surveys in Wisconsin, which date back to 1854.

The WGNHS, a part of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, is an interdisciplinary organization that conducts natural resources

surveys and research to produce information used for decision making, problem solving, planning, management, development, and education. *Survey* is defined to include resource inventory and basic and applied research and analysis. The WGNHS has no specific regulatory or enforcement responsibilities.

Survey staff members conduct topical as well as local, regional, and statewide research projects; collect and store data and physical samples; analyze these data and samples; communicate results to the public via publications; and respond to numerous requests for technical advice and service. Some projects are conducted jointly with state, federal, and local agencies as well as with other units of the university.

Maps, records, and reports--including interpretations and recommendations--produced by the WGNHS provide basic data for resource, land-use, and environmental management. For example, they can help to identify areas with potential for nonmetallic and metallic mineral resources; to determine general groundwater availability; to locate groundwater supplies; to prevent/mitigate groundwater contamination; to locate storage/disposal facilities; to locate bridges, highways, and other structures; to analyze weather patterns; to determine limitations/suitabilities to the use of soils; to advise on problems of aquatic vegetation; to provide advice and interpretation on natural hazards that may affect human health and safety; and for many other applications.

They will demonstrate a variety of digital and analog map products and databases at the county and statewide scales relating to geology, groundwater, and mineral resources. They will also have examples of WGNHS maps and publications and an internet connection to the WGNHS website and digital products currently under development.